

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PEPR, PORG, WA, SF

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: SOUTH AFRICANS AGREE TO PROCEED
(CONDITIONALLY) WITH CONTACT GROUP PROPOSAL

REF: PRETORIA 4383 REPEATED BY SEPTTEL

FOLLOWING IS A DRAFT EVENING READING ITEM PREPARED BY IO
ON THE SOUTH AFRICAN AGREEMENT TO PROCEED WITH THE
CONTACT GROUP PROPOSAL:

AT AN ALL-DAY MEETING JULY 31, THE SOUTH AFRICAN CABINET
REACHED A DECISION WHICH AMOUNTS TO A CONDITIONAL AGREE-
MENT TO GO AHEAD WITH THE CONTACT GROUP PROPOSAL FOR A
NAMIBIA SETTLEMENT, WHICH WAS APPROVED BY THE UN SECURITY
COUNCIL JULY 27. THE SOUTH AFRICANS' DECISION, IN THE FORM
OF A LETTER FROM FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA, WAS CONVEYED
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TO THE PRESS. THE ANNOUNCEMENT STRONGLY RESTATES THE
SOUTH AFRICAN POSITION ON WALVIS BAY AND CONTAINS
SEVERAL CONDITIONS WHICH MAY PROVE TROUBLESOME IN THE
FUTURE REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR PROPOSAL.
NEVERTHELESS, WE BELIEVE THAT WALDHEIM WILL FIND IT
A SUFFICIENT BASIS FOR THE UN TO PROCEED. THE NEXT STEP

WILL BE THE DISPATCH OF A UN SURVEY TEAM HEADED BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR NAMIBIA, MARTI AHTISAARI, WHICH IS NOW SCHEDULED TO DEPART NEW YORK FOR WINDHOEK AUGUST 5. BOTHA'S LETTER DOES LEAVE THE SOUTH AFRICANS WITH AN ESCAPE CLAUSE BY STATING THAT THE SAG WILL SUBSEQUENTLY DETERMINE WHETHER THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT IS CONSISTENT WITH OUR PROPOSAL.

SWAPO PRESIDENT SAM NUJOMA ALSO MET WITH WALDHEIM TODAY. AT A SUBSEQUENT PRESS CONFERENCE, HE MADE SEVERAL STATEMENTS EXPRESSING SWAPO'S CONTINUED RESERVATIONS ABOUT ASPECTS OF THE SETTLEMENT PROPOSAL. ALTHOUGH NUJOMA'S STATEMENTS ARE NOT HELPFUL, WE BELIEVE THAT WE CAN CONTINUE TO RELY ON THE FRONT-LINE STATES TO KEEP NUJOMA, AND SWAPO, MORE OR LESS IN LINE.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN AND SWAPO STATEMENTS PLACE ON WALDHEIM THE DELICATE TASK OF DEVELOPING A MANDATE WHICH ALL PARTIES CAN ACCEPT. VANCE

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